

**2901.603-70 Modification of appointment.**

To modify a contracting officer's authority, the present appointment shall be revoked and a new certificate issued.

**2901.603-71 Ratification of unauthorized contract awards.**

(a) The Government is not generally bound by agreements or contractual commitments made to contractors or prospective contractors by persons to whom acquisition authority has not been delegated. Such unauthorized acts may be in violation of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, other Federal laws, the FAR, the DOLAR, and good acquisition practice; *e.g.*, certain requirements of law and regulation necessary for the proper establishment of a contractual obligation may not be met, such as certification of the availability of funds, determinations and findings, competition of sources, determination of contractor responsibility, price/cost analysis, administrative approvals, negotiations of appropriate contract clauses, *etc.*

(b) Unauthorized commitments shall not be ratified unless it would have been otherwise proper to enter into a contract prior to the commitment. As used herein, the phrase "otherwise proper" means that a ratification of an unauthorized commitment can be made only if there occurred no violation of any substantive legal requirements; *e.g.*, there can be no ratification unless a sole source can be justified; a determination made that the contractor is not debarred or otherwise ineligible for award; the Organizational Conflict of Interest reviews and determinations, if required, are completed; and where all other substantive legal requirements have been met. Whenever it is discovered that any person is performing work as a result of an unauthorized commitment, that person shall be advised that such work is being performed at their own risk pending establishment of valid contractual coverage. The Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) shall then be notified of the circumstances. If the HCA agrees that the work appears to be without valid au-

thorization, the Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, shall be notified by the HCA in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) Requests received by contracting officers for ratification of commitments made by personnel lacking contracting authority shall be processed as follows:

(1) The individual who made the unauthorized contractual commitment shall furnish the contracting officer all records and documents concerning the commitment and a complete, written statement of facts, including, but not limited to, a statement as to why the acquisition office was not used, why the proposed contractor was selected and a list of other sources considered, description of work to be performed or products to be furnished, estimated or agreed contract price, citation of appropriation available, and a statement as to whether the contractor has commenced performance. Under exceptional circumstances, such as when the person who made the unauthorized commitment is no longer available to attest to the circumstances of the unauthorized commitment, the Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, may waive the requirement that the responsible employee initiate and document the request; *Provided* the Head of the Contracting Activity determines in writing that the commitment was in fact made by an employee who shall be identified in the determination.

(2) The request for ratification, an approved justification for noncompetitive acquisition, and the information required by paragraph (c)(1) of this section, must be forwarded to the HCA for concurrence, together with recommended corrective actions to preclude recurrence.

(3) If the HCA concurs with the request for ratification, the request and concurrence shall be forwarded to the Director, Directorate of Procurement and Grant Management, for review by the Procurement Review Board (PRB). The PRB will review the request, the